



Consumer Services Department

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CSD *News Release*

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NORTH MIAMI BEACH TO HOST FIRST 2003 CSD SMALL CLAIMS COURT CLINIC

The Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department (CSD) has scheduled 14 clinics to be held next year at which South Florida residents will have the opportunity to learn about Miami-Dade's Small Claims Court system.

The first clinic will be held Thursday, January 2 in North Miami Beach at the McDonald Center, 17051 NE 19th Avenue, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The Consumer Services Department holds these clinics at venues across Miami-Dade County to help residents understand how to use the County's Small Claims Court system to settle disputes with a value of \$5,000 or less. They are facilitated by the County's Consumer Advocate, Leonard Elias.

In addition to giving a detailed explanation of how the Small Claims Court works, from filing an action to collecting on a judgment, Elias will answer questions from participants and distribute sample packages of the required legal forms.

The Small Claims Court Clinics are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

Persons requiring directions to the McDonald Center in North Miami Beach should call (305) 948-2957.

For information about the Small Claims Court Clinics as well as a schedule of clinics for 2003, call the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department at (305) 375-3677 or visit our website at www.miamidade.gov/csd/.

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.

National Consumer Protection Week is February 2 – 8, 2003